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The Class Fight

BY A. T. HARVEY

Man has changed his methods since the prehistoric time when the cannibalistic giant who could wield the heaviest clubs became chief of the motly tribes of cave dwellers. These ancient chieftains to glut their pride and proclaim their powers to admiring followers decorated their caves with the skulls of their vanquished opponents. To the common people of those days the chief was the ideal man, and was treated with reverence, respected for his mighty deeds, he had ability as the polished skulls of a hundred men testified. Our captains of industry are the modern cannibal chiefs. The primal instinct of man remains the same, a veneer of civilization thinly covers the cruelty, but the greed is much greater in its scope. Instead of the swift blow with a club which at most could but kill one victim at a time, our modern cannibals use the scientific weapon, private ownership of the machinery of production, and instead of a single victim murder thousands yearly, to glut their greed for profit. The vast majority of their victims do not suffer the quick death, but struggle though life enduring the pangs of hunger, living in foul dens, the air of which reeks with disease, no prospect but dull, soul destroying toil. Our modern system is much better for the chiefs than the prehistoric method; then the chief had to work killing victims to live on, now the victims kill themselves producing luxuries for the chief who do not have to labor. The people slave because necessity drives them to it and no other taskmaster is needed. To obtain the means to sustain life we labor, produce abundance to gratify every want and desire of man, but the employing class takes all, and in return for our labor dole out in wages just sufficient to sustain life. And, as there are many men for every job, it is only the more energetic and capable men who can obtain employment at callings which ensure a small degree of comfort. But as each of the preceding systems of producing the necessities of life have disappeared from the earth. When no longer capable of feeding the majority of its slaves, so the capitalist system will change to the cooperative commonwealth when the permanent army of unemployed reaches a few million more in numbers.

Then in the victory of the working class, the struggle between people of different classes, based on their economic condition, will cease and man assured of the necessities of comfortable life, will be able to practice the golden rule and become a truly civilized being.

The Irish landlord Scully who some years ago became notorious for the evictions carried on by his orders in the west of Ireland, owns 47,000 acres of good land in Logan county, Ill., where he has established the Irish system of landlordism. The farms are let in 80 or 160 acre tracts at the rate of \$4.50 per acre but the tenant must make all necessary improvements and before any part of the crop raised on the land can be sold, Scully must be paid the cash by these "independent American farmers."

Scully bought the land from the government several years ago for \$1.25 per acre, the increase in population, has made the property valuable, so without any work or further expense he yearly receives four dollars and fifty cents per acre from it. An attempt was made to prevent him holding the land because he was an Irish lord and alien. He removed to New York and became naturalized and so held his land. There is little use in blaming Scully if he did not own it some other exploiter would. The trouble is the people vote to continue the system which enables the few to rob the many through private ownership of public necessities.

The New York Herald says that

the stock market is held up, when naturally the conditions indicate a falling market. The brothers are holding the prices of stock high with the hope that the suckers can be convinced this is the time to buy. No gambler can take even chances with his victim, he must have the majority of chances in his favor. Consequently the legal stock gambler manipulates the market to enable him to rob his victim, just as the illegal gambler who runs roulette wheels or pharo tables has a variety of chances and devices which enables him to win. There is no real difference between the two, both are scheming to rob suckers and use slightly different methods; and of the two the illegal gambler is by far the better man, as he does not make hypocritical claim to respectability, nor hide his robbery under a cloak called high finance.

The destruction and sinking in less than three minutes of one of Russia's greatest battleships demonstrates that the modern battleship is nothing but a death trap. And instead of a tremendous engine of destruction, almost invulnerable, as is popularly believed is in fact one of the easiest destroyed of all the types of warships. The weight of armour plate or turrets and water line renders the ship so unstable that a comparatively small injury on, or below water line will cause the ship to turn turtle. The reason governments build these monstrosities is because of the extraordinary opportunity for graft by their construction. One battleship will cost the government as much as several cruisers and of the additional cost a very large percentage is profit. Our patriotic capitalists will sacrifice everything, but profit, for the country. They are very willing to construct ships that they know are defective and are almost sure to cause the loss of human life. There is profit in battleships, and if a few hundred workmen are drowned what matter, capitalism must have profits.

The bosses are opposing eight-hour legislation in congress and claim it is tyrannical. They also oppose employers liability acts or any legislation favoring the majority of the people. For twenty years a lobby of earnest union men have been striving to have congress pass laws to benefit labor, but have accomplished nothing. It is time for the people to realize that the congress and senate of these United States are composed of men of the capitalist class, consequently it is folly to expect them to pass laws favorable to labor; because if shorter hours are granted to workers there is less profit for the employer.

Sometimes the employers strive to drive men harder for the shorter time and thus make up the loss, but the condition cannot long prevail and the result is eventually increased cost of production except where the adoption of improved machinery eliminates men thus reducing cost. It is only to be expected that our law makers refuse to sanction such measures, and if they do pass one to make political capital; the supreme court can be depended on to declare the law unconstitutional. And even when adopted by the people as a constitutional amendment, as in Colorado; the bosses refuse to be bound by its provisions. They work men long hours for paltry wage, women slave for a pittance often not sufficient to supply the commonest necessities of life, and in the cotton mills of the south, the mines, stores and sweatshops of the east little children toil from ten to twelve hours a day, but this is not tyranny, oh! no, just business. When the working class learn the lesson of the struggle which is raging within our society, they will cease to ask the capitalist congress to better their condition. Inspired by the understanding of our economic system they will elect

men of their own class, laborers to congress, and make the laws instead of begging for them.

Movements of Socialists

National Headquarters,
Socialist Party.

William Mailly, Nat'l Secretary,
Omaha, Nebr., Apr. 25, 1904.

Contributions have been made to the National Organizing Fund since last report to the amount of \$13.50; previously reported, \$3,167.96; total, \$3,181.46.

The bulletin is short this week because of making preparations for removal of the office furniture to the seat of new headquarters. Address mail as usual until official announcement of the new address is given.

The New England Passenger Association has also given rate of one fare and one-third on certificate plan under same conditions as other passenger associations previously reported. All who come to the national convention should remember they must get delegates certificate from railroad agent at time of purchasing ticket if they want reduced fare home from Chicago.

State Secretary Jas. S. Smith of Illinois has issued a circular of information concerning hotel accommodations at the conventions. Those writing for this information should enclose stamp for reply.

The Illinois State Committee reports the endorsement of Comrades Sam Block and M. W. Speare for the reserve list. Unless objections are raised and a direct vote called for the names will be placed on the list in three weeks from date. The State Committee of New York has withdrawn the endorsement of L. D. Mayes as speaker for reserve list, because of a protest from Local Rochester.

Morris Hillquit has been re-elected National Committeeman for New York; and Chas. H. Townner, Covington, has been elected to fill the vacancy caused by resignation of Chas. Dobbs, as National Committeeman for Kentucky.

No report has been made to the National Committee concerning the actions of the Quorum because of the National Secretary's absence, but in view of the fact that no report will be made next week and probably not the next, I will report that the Quorum has approved of the following propositions submitted under dates given:

March 1, Temporary suspension of "Foreign Bulletin," "Annual Report;" withholding names of J. B. Osborne from reserve list pending further instructions from state committee of Colorado because of protest from State Committeeman R. A. Southworth. (Wrote State Secretary Martin, April 13th for reply to letter of March 11th relative to protest.)

March 29th, Temporary postponement of sending organizer to Wisconsin at expense of National office.

April 8, Submitting nominations for delegates to National Convention from Georgia after regular time because of claim that call for nominations had not been received.

The vote on location of National headquarters has resulted in the selection of Chicago as you will see by enclosed report. The office furniture is being moved at once so that we may, if possible, get settled in new office rooms before the convention.

Delos Items

Mr. Fisk has gone to Helena with his family.

Mr. Hanson has gone to work for Mr. Fisk.

Mr. Bush went out to Landusky last week.

Mr. Phillips has gone to Alder Gulch for the summer.

Mr. Howard had the bad luck to lose a horse while hauling hay from Smith & Laraway's.

Robt. Lillard and family have moved to their new ranch just above the old Shay place. He has a splendid location as he has located under the new ditch that the Fergus Cattle Co., have taken out of Armells.

Quite a number of boats are going by bound for the Worlds Fair at St. Louis.

Mr. Davis crossed the river here and is going to work around Malta for the summer.

The cattle wintered here in good shape without any loss; the grass on the range is green now and stock is picking up.

The ice went out of the river here the 6th. Mr. Frost went down the river two days later with his ferry. Mr. King accompanied him from Benton.

A number of bob cats in the bottoms and they are playing havoc with the rabbit industry and it is almost impossible for the ranchers to get fresh meat.

There is a large mountain lion around these parts; he has been seen frequently but is so shy it is almost impossible to get a shot at him and quite a few large wolves which get away with the calves.

Mr. Carney is busy putting in a crop and every one around here is making garden or seeding. Most of the ranchers along the river intend to raise their own grain and vegetables this year and Lewistown can expect to get her tropical fruit from this section in time as this is the banana belt of Montana and when we get tired ranching we can rest by going down to the river and catching the festive catfish.

SOCIALISTS ARE FOR PEACE
(Continued from first page)

laborers. The logic of the facts is stronger than the logic of the words.

The Socialists recognize that the class struggle between the capitalist and the working class, now that it is there by force of circumstances, cannot be ended by economic means. The mere economic organization of the working class can never end in any other solution but violence. The only way to meet the problem successfully, and without bloodshed, is to supplement the economic class struggle by the political class struggle at the ballot box. Economic organization as a class and political organization as a class, that is the only way to solve the riddle of how to abolish classes and class struggles.

The capitalist themselves, if they read the signs of the times correctly should do everything in their power to hasten the political organization of the working class in the Socialist party. For in the further course of trust development, a commercial crisis through overproduction, and therefore, a gigantic unemployed problem, is looming up in the horizon of the near future. When that time comes, there are only two ways of meeting the situation: One is to slaughter the hungry masses, to stifle the class struggle in blood, and to travel the same weary road all over again, through the same gruesome strife and murder, to again come to the same dilemma. The other is the presence of a Socialist organization strong enough to guide the working class, and also the capitalist class, by the bridle of reason, to yield to the Socialist majority in conformity with the democratic spirit of this country, and to reorganize society on the basis of collectivism. There will then be only one class, the working class, who will build the society of the future with brain and brawn, a society without class antagonisms and without class hatred. In one word, to abolish class hatred we must abolish the economic conditions that create classes and class hatred.



Old Rat—Stop, stop, Rodent! Don't you know that is the paste that kills?—Chicago American.

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